# JANUARY

# by Leslie E. Stevens

## Flowers

## Plant holiday Amaryllis after blooms fade for new blooms in spring.

## Choose camellias while they are in bloom.

## Select and plant bare-root roses now while nurseries have good supply.

* For cool-season color, plant or sow seeds of alyssum, calendula, coreopsis and pansies.

**Edibles**

* Sow seeds for onions in coastal areas.
* Start seeds indoors or in cold frames for cool season vegetables such as broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower and celery.

### Trees & Shrubs

* Plant bare-root fruit trees. Make sure the chill hours for the varieties you select match the climate of your growing area. Plant only low-chill varieties in coastal areas.
* Brighten winter landscapes by planting winter-flowering shrubs such as acacias, breath of heaven, camellias, ceanothus, hibiscus and New Zealand Tea Tree (leptospermum).
* Prune deciduous fruit trees and roses. Finish by applying horticultural oil sprays to dormant fruit trees and roses to help control over-wintering pests and diseases. Spray on dry days when rain is not expected for at least 24 hours.
* Cut back over-grown perennials such as ornamental grasses, lavender, chrysanthemum and yarrow to just about a foot above ground.
* When frost is expected, water landscapes since tree and plant root systems are better able to avoid frost damage when thoroughly moistened. Move tender potted plants under trees or eaves for protection. Cover sensitive landscape plants with blankets or warm with outdoor holiday lights. Be sure to remove covers after sunrise.

## Watering

With the reappearance of seasonal rains, don’t forget to water houseplants and landscape plants in covered areas. Also check to make sure automatic sprinklers are turned off when not needed.

## Pests & Diseases

To minimize infestations of woolly whitefly and cottony cushion scale in citrus, it’s important to control for ants. Ants feed off the honeydew produced by the pests and protect them from beneficial predators. Wrap tree trunks with sticky substances such as Tanglefoot or use ant baits for effective control.

## References

UCANR Chill Hours for SLO County: <http://fruitsandnuts.ucdavis.edu/Weather_Services/chilling_accumulation_models/Chill_Calculators/>

UCANR Pest Note 7410 – Cottony Cushion Scale <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7410.html>

UCANR Pest Note 7465 –Roses, Cultural Practices <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7465.html>